

# NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 12 NO. 36



## THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION

*Hawaii's Own*

BY KAZUMA OYAMA

Last year we observed the 50th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. This year, 1992, the veterans of Hawaii's 100th Infantry Battalion celebrated the 50th anniversary of its formation in June 1942. Born as a consequence of the December 1941 attack, the 100th Battalion members chose "Remember Pearl Harbor" as their motto.

To identify their Hawaiian heritage the Ape (ah-pay) leaf and the yellow feather helmet once worn by Hawaiian Chieftains were depicted on the shield and insignia of the Battalion.

The original members of the 100th Battalion (they prefer to be called by the Hawaiian pidgin - "One Puka Puka") were men of Japanese ancestry who were mostly members of Hawaii National Guard's 298th and 299th Infantry Regiments.

These men were draftees of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th United States selective service calls. In fact the men who were in the 4th draft of November 1941, had their basic training at "Tent City" in

NOVEMBER 25, 1992

Schofield Barracks cut short by the attack on "Pearl Harbor." In the crucial days following the attack, the Hawaii National Guardsmen, including those of Japanese ancestry, were assigned to guard the shore lines against possible invasion.

In June 1942, all men of Japanese ancestry were separated from the Hawaii National Guard and an Army Engineer unit and subsequently boarded the S.S. Maui at the Army port in Honolulu to start their eventful journey to the mainland U.S. and Europe.

The conduct and training record of the 100th Battalion is largely credited for the approval (by the War Department) in the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in March 1943.

On the first day of combat for the 442nd in June 1944, it was the battle experienced One Puka Puka who routed the entrenched Germans and initiated an auspicious start for the 442nd R.C.T. For this action on June 26 and 27, 1944, the One Puka Puka was awarded the first of three Presidential Unit Citations. Their second Presidential Unit Citation was for their part in the "rescue" of a besieged battalion of the 36th "Texas" Infantry Division in France in October 1944. The third P.U.C. was for their part (during April 5 - 14, 1945) in the successful assault and breakthrough of the Western anchor of the formidable Gothic Line - the last stronghold of the German troops in Italy.

The Presidential Unit Citation is represented by a battle streamer attached to the colors. The members were awarded individual Distinguished Unit Badges.

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THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION



## THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION

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There are several books that contain information about the One Puka Puka. However the most complete book about the 100th Infantry Battalion is "Ambassadors In Arms" by Thomas D. Murphy, University of Hawaii Press, 1954. Other noteworthy books are: "Americans - The Story of the 442nd Combat Team", by Major Orville C. Shirey, Washington Infantry Journal Press, 1946; "T-Patch to Victory - The 36th "Texas" Division - France-Germany-Austria," by Colonel Vincent M. Lockhart, Staked Plains Press, 1981; "Go For Broke," by Chester Tanaka, Go For Broke, Inc., 1982; "Bridge of Love," by John Tsukano, Hawaii Host, Inc., 1985; "Unlikely Liberators - The Men of the 100th and 442nd," by Masayo Umezawa Duus, University of Hawaii Press, 1987 (English translation); "I Can Never Forget - Men of the 100th/442nd," by Thelma Chang, SIGI Productions, Inc., 1991.

The 100th Infantry Battalion's 50th anniversary is commemorated on the reverse of this year's Hawaii State Numismatic Association medal. The obverse features Father Damien's church at Kalaupapa, to represent Molokai. This is medal number 5 of the H.S.N.A.'s Hawaiian Island Series.



## HONOLULU COIN CLUB

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Susannah Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street, 7:30 p.m.

Gregory Hunt, president.

## BIG ISLAND COIN SHOW

More than 300 people turned out in Hilo, Hawaii, for a five hour, one-day coin show held on April 5, at John Michael's Restaurant, at 400 Hualani Street. The Big Island Coin Club sponsored the show.

"We were very pleased with the public's response to our first show since 1989," said President Virginia Dicks of the BICC. A total of 11 dealers, who came from Hilo, Kona, Honolulu, and Nevada, took part in the show.

One of the primary highlights, however, was a series of exhibits by members of the club, and a highly publicized display of Hawaii Overprint Dollars by dealer Jim Simek. The overprint dollar display was featured in a newspaper article just a few days before the show and helped attract many interested members of the public to the show.

Roger Chikuami and Alton Chow served as co-chairmen of the show, with Walt Southward as bourse chairman, Virginia Dicks as exhibits chairman, Rick Howsley as door prize chairman, and Marta Bowman as registration chairman.

"The primary purpose of the show," Virginia said, "was to increase interest in coin collecting on the part of the community. We feel that we have accomplished our goal."

The Big Island Coin Club, which is nearly 30 years old, has more than 45 active members. Information on the club's activities is available by writing to the club.

Big Island Coin Club  
P.O. Box 971  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721





# Christmas and Coins 1992

BY IRVING KAM



Lately, the years have been slipping by rather easily, yet with an increased frequency. That old proverbial adage of "how time flies" have proved truistic as 1992 quickly nears its end. By the time you are reading this, the Hawaii State Numismatic Association annual convention should be happening, and the Christmas season looms immediately thereafter. It is here at this numismatic gathering that purchases for the holiday gift-giving starts to become quite evident and questions abound.

Selections should be much broader this year as the price of precious metals have remained low while many coin issues have moved down dramatically, and in some instances are downright cheap. But to help alleviate the burden of decision making, we have queried several dealers for stocking stuffing ideas and their responses are as follows:

Don King (Windward Coins) says "naturally proof sets are always popular around this time." So are U.S. silver eagles and silver rounds or bars. He also has some of his Hawaii "30 Years of Statehood" medals, in either silver or bronze, available. Hawaii overprints in nice V.F. condition are always in demand and he sells a lot of Red Books at Christmas.

James Kinoshita (Downtown Coin Gallery) likes the many government packaged issues that are both attractively priced as well as boxed. Potential candidates include proof sets, prestige proof sets, and proof U.S. eagles. Ike dollars in the brown packs are always welcome gifts as are many varied U.S. contemporary commemorative coinages of the past ten years. Another area that has a lot to

choose from is in numismatic books. The ever popular Red Books, any grading guide, the Medcalf/Russell - "Hawaiian Money Standard Catalog," and John Highfill's "The Comprehensive U.S. Silver Dollar Encyclopedia" to name a few.

Sylvia Martin (Ala Moana Stamp and Coin Co. Ltd.) carries a line of starter kits for the beginning coin or stamp collector that would be ideal for Christmas giving. They include all the basic ingredients for a good start and the price is very reasonable. She prescribes U.S. eagles, proof sets, birthyear sets, as well as gold coins which begin at a modest \$35 on up. Hobby literature such as the "Catalog of World Coins" are excellent buys and the philatelist would appreciate a deluxe stamp stock book under the tree.

Bert Matsuura (McCully Stamp and Coin) advises the giving of U.S. silver eagles as well as beveled gold coin jewelry of any denomination because of favorable metal prices. Also proof sets, silver or clad, and sets of any given year. Even a subscription to Coin World, Numismatic News, Coins, Coinage, or any other hobby publication would be much appreciated.

Don Medcalf (Hawaiian Island Stamp and Coin) recommends the giving of an island token or medal as a souvenir of old Hawaii. They come in many themes and topics and are found in a myriad of price ranges. He also likes proof sets and bullion type silver at this time. Besides the U.S. coins and eagles, an unusual and/or historical foreign coin or coins can be purchased for not much over melt.

Craig Watanabe (Captain Cook Coin Co of Honolulu, Inc.) feels a good gift could be a nice eye appealing commercial uncirculated U.S. ten dollar gold coin. When inserted into a 3" X 3" capital plastic holder, it makes for a very impressive present. Currently priced around \$225, it is still less than half of what it was in 1980. Other possibilities are a 1941 or 1942 proof set, or a 5 or 6 piece twentieth century type set (Indian head cent, Buffalo nickel, Mercury dime, Standing liberty quarter, Walking liberty half, Morgan or

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CHRISTMAS AND COINS**





## Christmas and Coins

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Peace dollar). Accumulation could be spread over a period of years as a one coin per occasion set. Grades for the proof set is either MS-63 or 64 while the type set is to be MS-64, and again housed in a plastic holder.

The emphasis here is on fun. Taking one's time to find the nicest coin for the grade, one by one, and enjoying the pleasures of collecting.

We hope these suggestions prove helpful in the quest to scratch off names from a shopper's check list. Also, much thanks to the dealers for their always welcome expertise and input. It is appreciated and acknowledged. Here's wishing all, for a happy and safe holiday season.

Aloha! Pau



'AKOHEKOHE,  
Honey-Creeper  
(No. 11) wood  
in the series  
of  
Hawaiian  
Endangered  
Wildlife

The continuing series of Hawaiian Endangered Wildlife (No. 11) features a native Hawaiian rain forest Honey-Creeper called 'Akohekohe. This native bird lives only on Maui, on the slopes of Haleakala.

A beautiful large dark bird with a bright orange color behind the neck, and other parts of the body, this Honey-Creeper is spotted with other intricate colors of white, grays and golden brownish yellow. The 'Akohekohe feeds on plants as well as insects and may be seen on native 'Ohia flowers

Christmas berries are shown on the reverse of the wooden token. Also known as the Brazilian Pepper, they grow wild in the Hawaiian forest. The berries are small and grow into a light yellowish-green color and into a bright red. A native of Brazil, these plant grow into small trees and are often found along the mountain side with other plants like Guava, Algaroba, Koa Haole and Lantana. During the Christmas holiday season, these plants can be seen woven into wreaths and leis.

The wooden token will be sold at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel HSNA Show on November 12-15. To purchase the wooden token by mail, send 25¢ for each wood with a self-addressed stamp envelope to Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.

## JUNIOR COLLECTORS OF HCC

BY GARY LAU

We have four new junior members, who joined our club in the month of September. It has been a very long time since we have had any juniors at our club meetings. Jimmy Silva and I are looking forward in guiding these juniors in coins they are interested in. We will teach and show them what to look for in coins they collect, difference in conditions (grading), overgrading, marks, and also toning.

Our four new juniors are Celeste Vonwronski, Carey Ann Izuo, Christine Izuo, and Cheryl Izuo. Their ages are 13, 11, 10, and 8 respectively. Celeste collects all U.S. coins. Carey Ann collects Buffalo and Jefferson nickels. Christine collects Lincoln pennies and Cheryl collects Mercury and Roosevelt dimes.

We wish to thank Mr. Mark Vonwronski and Mr. Clarence Izuo for bringing their children with them to the club meetings. We already gave the juniors homework to do. We asked them to do a handwritten report on the coins they collect, plus to draw a picture of a coin. We welcome these four juniors with open arms and hope many more juniors will come and learn about coins they collect and want to collect.



MORE ON JUNIORS pg 6



## MY FIRST MAJOR AUCTION

BY ALTON CHOW

BICC MEMBER

Several years ago, while attending one of the Long Beach Shows, I arrived in Los Angeles a few days before the show. Superior Galleries usually has a big auction before the Long Beach Show. Having never been to a major auction, I decided to go and see what it was all about.

Before looking at any lots, you must have an auction catalog. It gives you the lot numbers and which coin it pertains to. Looking at auction lots can be fun and not so fun. Just asking the lot attendant to look at a certain lot is an event in itself. The attendants never take their eyes off you while you are looking at the lots unless they know you or you are a coin dealer. It's quite an uncomfortable feeling.

When you are a coin collector, it's a joy to see coins that you always read about and know how valuable they are. Always look at all the lots that you are interested in, from common coins to rarities. This will tell you how an auction company grades coins. Whether you're a coin dealer or a small potato like me, don't feel intimidated by the coins that are worth thousands of dollars. My feeling was that, I was in the ocean with a lot of sharks and I was a little fish.

Having looked at the lots and deciding which ones to bid on, and how much to bid, I proceeded to the auction. There are usually several sessions to an auction, starting in the morning or at night. Bidding on lots go very fast so you must keep up with the auctioneer or you will miss the lots that you are interested in.

Be sure to have in mind how much you want to spend with a maximum limit. Don't overspend because auction fever can be contagious. Going to a major auction has given me the thrill to take part as well as providing an interesting experience.



## KALA O' HAWAII

BY GREGORY HUNT

In case you are new to Hawaii or the Hawaii State Numismatic Association (HSNA), I will define the above title. It means "Money of Hawaii". In 1966, the officers of the association decided to have their own newsletter and it was titled - Kala O' Hawaii.

I thought it would be interesting for the present membership to be reminded of our past and those people directly responsible for the HSNA's existence. In order to do this, documents from our club's past had to be retrieved which proved to be no easy task.

It was lucky for me that I knew Mr. Dave Martin. During the fall of 1982, in my many visits to his stamp and coin shop, a lot of questions were asked regarding our association. He was a great teacher and very helpful in my quest. He was able to share with me the original HSNA newsletters that he had saved. I read them all and made copies of some of them for my file. This satisfied my thirst at the time.

It is interesting to note the officers and board members for that year (1966):  
William C. Johnson.....President  
Dale Carter.....Vice-President  
Gordon Medcalf.....Secretary  
Dave Martin.....Treasurer  
Directors: John Krusynski, George Moore, Willie Iwasaki, Robert DeMello, R. Harris, Robert Brown, J. Walrafen, Walt Southward, Whitney Takahata, and Walter Victor.

Other committee members included:  
Joseph Tetrault.....Education  
Wade Porter.....Librarian  
Dale Carter.....Exhibits  
Robert Fong.....Security  
Gladys Pearson.....Banquets  
John Krusynski.....Bourse  
Dave Martin.....Medals  
George Moore.....Auctions  
George Oshiro.....Entertainment  
Sylvia Martin.....Ladies Events  
Harry Bauer.....Photography  
Thelma Marshall.....Newsletter  
Gordon Medcalf.....Curator

Many of the aforementioned persons have departed or are no longer living here in

KALA O' HAWAII Continued on pg 6



## KALA O' HAWAII

Continued from pg 5

the islands. But let us not forget our roots. This group of individuals put Hawaii on the coin collecting map. They made the HSNA the premier coin show in the islands till the present day.

It is also interesting to note the many locations of the HSNA Coin Shows. The first show was held at the Reef Ocean Tower Hotel on October 7 thru 10, 1964. We could only set up about thirty plus tables. This lasted a couple of years till we were forced to expand due to more collectors and dealers interested in Hawaii as a coin market. The Ala Moana Hotel became a larger more convenient site, however due to cost and constraints, we had to move again. For the last fifteen or so years, we have settled at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel Akala Room. Between fifty to seventy dealer tables (a year) were set up in the room.

Aloha - Pau!

### Resources:

Kala O' Hawaii copy of 1966 HSNA official coin newsletter written by Thelma Marshall; provided by Dave Martin.

1964 Hawaii State Numismatic Association Convention Auction Guide /Program conducted by Robert Burggraft, Lowden, Washington, Auctioneer; provided by Don Medcalf.

Fourth Annual Hawaii State Numismatic Convention Program/Auction Guide by Tom McAfee, November 8-12, 1967; provided by Don Medcalf.



**CHERYLIN IZUO**

**AGE 8**

I like Mercury Dimes more than Roosevelt Dimes because its more neater (like nice) then Roosevelt Dimes. I like 1916 on Mercury Dime because it is rare. They only made 55.2 million.



**CHRISTINE IZUO**

**AGE 10**

I collect Lincoln cents. The one I would like most is 1955 double die. I would like 1955 doubled die because it is rare and unique from other typical pennies. I also like how it was made.

## BIG ISLAND PLASTIC

BY DON NIGRO

Flash! Plastic is being used on the Big Island. No, not only in the form of credit cards... but also in several modern Hawaiian Tokens.

Each year since 1987, Hilo Mardi Gras tokens have been made. These yellow plastic 42 millimeter diameter tokens feature an attractive black design of a dancing figure with carnival umbrella, the legend "HILO MARDI GRAS" and date. The earlier dates are uniface. Now the Downtown Hilo logo appears on the reverse. Some 1 to 2,000 Hilo Mardi Gras tokens have been made each year; and in keeping with the rich tradition of the New Orleans Mardi Gras, these are freely thrown to the crowd along the parade route.

Currently in everyday use in Hilo are two different "Hale Inu Bar" tokens. The \$2.00 Drink Token is a bright yellow plastic 28 Millimeter diameter token with lustrous incised red lettering. The obverse reads "HALE INU HILO, HAWAII" in three lines; the reverse reads "GOOD FOR ONE DRINK" in four lines. The \$2.75 Mixed Drink Token differs only in being blue plastic instead of yellow.

These eight colorful plastic tokens vary greatly in the difficulty in locating them. They make wonderful additions to any comprehensive collection of Hawaiian Tokens.

About the author - Don Nigro - he has been a Big Island Coin Club member and officer for over five years. He is Hawaii isle's newest coin dealer, operating his Coins and Collectibles business out of the "Magazines Plus Shop" in old downtown Hilo at 259 Keawe Street. If you are in the area, stop by and say "hello" (aloha) and chat with him.



**CAREY ANNE**

**IZUO**

**AGE 11**

I collect Buffalo and Jefferson Nickels. My favorite of the two is the Buffalo Nickels. I like the Buffalo Nickels because I've studied Indian History in fifth grade. I also enjoy seeing a buffalo on the back of the coin. I got most of my nickels from my dad.

My favorite coin that I have is the 1913 Raised Ground Buffalo Nickel. I like this coin because its my earliest dated coin.



## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COIN CLUBS OF HAWAII



### BIG ISLAND COIN CLUB

July 1992 Past president Rick Howsley did an impressive job of installing Mildred Murakami (president) and new officers of the BICC. Jim Moore is making an appeal for members to pay their (\$9.00) dues. Thanks go to Byron Toma for bringing munches to the meetings. Contact Walt Southward for auction information.

August 1992 Odd American coins, including half cent, large cent, three cent piece, half dime, and 20 cent piece were featured at the meeting. Walt Southward played "show and tell" with samples of various types of coins. The above program is one of the on going series of educational programs planned by the club's board of directors.

September 1992 A special committee of BICC members, including Walt Southward, Don Nigro, Rick Howsley, Alton Chow, and Roger Chikuami are working on a major coin auction. More details next month.

October 1992 Vern Lowe, a coin dealer who operates a shop in Kailua-Kona was the guest speaker for the meeting. He provided information on current coin activity on the national and local levels. A major coin auction will be held on November 1, 1992 at the John Michael's Restaurant, 400 Hualani Street, in Hilo, Hawaii. An estimated retail value of over \$20,000 in U.S. coins of all denominations will be auctioned.

### HONOLULU COIN CLUB

August 1992 Another successful Statehood show was held this month at Kapalama School, was the report given by treasurer C. Matsuda. We had over 20 dealers present and attendance was over 200. A special (aluminum) medal was given to

each dealer present. Our thanks to the members who took time to display at the show. Exhibitors were: Crane Saito, Charles Matsuda, Gary Lau, Francis Damon, Dennis Tomiyasu, and W.K. Young.

They also received a special exhibitor's medal. A discussion on displaying (exhibiting) at the club meeting, was held. Welcome to new members Mark Vonwronski and his daughter, Celeste.

September 1992 Four new juniors joined the club (see story). Brisk sales on HCC's first "Birds of Hawaii" was reported by treasurer C. Matsuda. Only 200 sets were made. There was a story in our May issue on the medal. An auction and door prizes followed the meeting.

October 1992 "Sold Out" was the word given on HCC's medals (Birds of Hawaii), by C. Matsuda. We are happy to report that our junior program is in full operation again. Of the six members present, three (Carey Ann, Christine, and Cherylin) gave a presentation at the meeting of what they collect and a drawing of the item. Coral Tsukayama and McKenzie Yoshida are new members. "Well done" to James Silva and Gary Lau, junior advisers.

Our Christmas party's menu is set and will be held at Susannah Wesley Center at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday December 12, 1992. Come join us! Preps are being made for our major coin show in November (12 - 15), at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel.



JOIN the Honolulu Coin Club

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For information contact  
Mr. K at 524-1255.





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